

**LA ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA**



**2005**

**DEL GOBERNADOR**



**Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education, the Governor's Spanish Academy offers an opportunity to Spanish students in Virginia to immerse themselves in Spanish for three weeks. Highly qualified teachers and counselors engage students in both academic and extracurricular activities designed to improve the students' language skills and augment their understanding of Hispanic culture. All activities—classes, conversations, sports, excursions—are conducted completely in Spanish.**

**Former Academy participants describe the experience as one of the best of their lives. In fact, many students go on to study Spanish in college, and some even return as RAs or teachers.**

**The following pages show how the 2005 Academy students spent their three weeks in the Global Village at Virginia Commonwealth University.**





**The Spanish Academy provides a unique environment for 60 Virginia students to live, study, eat, play, laugh, dance, sing, learn together for three weeks in a Spanish-speaking world.**



**24 hours a day...**



**¡En español!**



**We work together...**



**We study together...**



**We have fun together..**





**We (the 60 students & 12 faculty) lived for 3 weeks at Virginia Commonwealth University. Each student had a roommate, and we all ate every meal together at VCU's dining facilities.**





Daily activities included classes (such as culture, geography, literature), projects (such as dance, theater, chorus, yearbook), journals (with teachers), guided discussions (with RAs) and many surprises!







In addition to  
classes,  
journals,  
projects, and  
conversations,

Academy  
students also  
participated in  
sports. Our  
teams  
represented  
only a handful  
of the Spanish-  
speaking  
countries of the  
world.



## Academy Sports Teams







**Students and faculty also celebrated the San Fermín festival with games. We even had a running of the bulls.**

# **AMANTES DE LA HISPANIDAD**



Occasionally, we left the confines of the VCU campus to explore other area attractions. We visited Monticello (pictured below)--which was the home of Thomas Jefferson-- and the University of Virginia, where we were hosted by a professor from the Spanish department. We also ventured out to parks, an art museum and even a restaurant. As always, it was 100% español.





Although students will fondly remember the Academy classes, projects, and other activities, it is the friendships that will last as long as their love of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. These loves will bind them together for years to come.





# Why study Spanish?

- At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 60 million people spoke Spanish. Today, almost 500 million people worldwide speak Spanish!
- Approximately 350 million people in 21 countries (Mexico: 98 million, Spain: 39 million, USA: 39 million, Colombia: 36 million, Argentina: 35million, Venezuela: 22 million, Peru: 20 million) are Spanish-speaking.
- Spanish is the second most used language in international communication.
- Latin culture has had a global influence on architecture, art and literature. Who hasn't heard of 'Don Quijote de la Mancha' by Miguel de Cervantes, the second most translated book in the world after the Bible? Or that the most expensive painting ever sold is a Picasso?

For more information, contact your Spanish teacher or access the Virginia Department of Education Web site.